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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To expand access to apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships among certain populations, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. WALKER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To expand access to apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships
among certain populations, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds the following:

5 (1) Nationwide, there are over 585,000 appren-
6 tices currently obtaining the skills they need to suc-
7 ceed, while earning the wages they need to build fi-
8 nancial security.

1 (2) On June 15, 2017, President Trump signed
2 an Executive order to double Federal spending on
3 the Apprenticeship USA program to \$200 million a
4 year, with the money allocated from existing job
5 training programs.

6 (3) Businesses from across the country signed
7 the “Pledge to American Workers”, committing to
8 provide 3,800,000 workers with apprenticeship op-
9 portunities.

10 (4) Nationally, 91 percent of United States ap-
11 prentices are employed after completing their pro-
12 grams, with an average starting wage above
13 \$60,000.

14 (5) The Strengthening Career and Technical
15 Education for the 21st Century Act was signed into
16 law in July 2018 to promote access to workplace de-
17 velopment programs such as apprenticeship pro-
18 grams.

19 (6) On December 21, 2018, the First Step Act
20 of 2018 was signed into law, a landmark criminal
21 justice reform to promote hope and opportunity for
22 incarcerated individuals.

23 (7) Former inmates often face a significant in-
24 ability to enter the workforce due to a lack of rel-

1 evant training, negatively impacting their family and
2 future generations.

3 (8) 60 percent of the 650,000 inmates released
4 every year are unemployed one year after they are
5 released.

6 (9) Congress must continue its work to expand
7 apprenticeship opportunities to ensure all American
8 workers have access to the necessary workforce de-
9 velopment tools.

10 **SEC. 2. EXPANDING ACCESS TO APPRENTICESHIPS.**

11 (a) PROMOTION OF APPRENTICESHIPS AND PRE-AP-
12 PRENTICESHIPS TO CERTAIN POPULATIONS.—The Sec-
13 retary of Defense, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary
14 of Education, and the Attorney General, shall, in consulta-
15 tion with each other and consistent with applicable law,
16 promote apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships for—

17 (1) high school students and participants in the
18 Job Corps of the Department of Labor;

19 (2) persons currently or formerly incarcerated;

20 (3) persons not currently attending high school
21 or an accredited post-secondary educational institu-
22 tion; and

23 (4) for members of armed services and vet-
24 erans.

1 (b) PROMOTION OF APPRENTICESHIPS AND PRE-AP-
2 PRENTICESHIPS TO CERTAIN INDUSTRIES.—The Sec-
3 retary of Commerce and the Secretary of Labor shall pro-
4 mote apprenticeships to business leaders across critical in-
5 dustry sectors, including manufacturing, infrastructure,
6 cybersecurity, and health care.

7 (c) APPRENTICESHIP DEFINED.—For the purposes
8 of this Act, the term “apprenticeship” means an arrange-
9 ment that includes a paid-work component and an edu-
10 cational or instructional component, wherein an individual
11 obtains workplace-relevant knowledge and skills.